श्री दिलीप कुमार मनसुख लाल गांधी:सभापति जी, सर्वे के लिए एक टेंडर निकाला गया था। इसमें बारह लोगों ने हिस्सा लिया था। इसमें से चार इलिजिबल हुए थे। सबसे अच्छा टाटा कंसेल्टेंसी से एग्रीमेंट हुआ है। इन्होंने सात महीने के अंदर पूरा सर्वे करके रिपोर्ट देने की बात कही है।

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Sir, Pondicherry is a minor port. I want to know whether any scheme has been received from the Pondicherry Government to improve the port of Pondicherry. If it has been received, what has been the response of the Government of India in this regard?

श्री दिलीप कुमार मनसुख लाल गांधी: सभापति जी, ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

श्री सभापति:विजय मल्लया जी, आप एब्सेंट थे। अगर 526 प्रश्न पूछना चाहते हैं तो पूछ लीजिए।

Schemes for welfare of tribes living in forests in Karnataka

*526. DR. VI JAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes/programmes being implemented for the welfare of tribes living in forests particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for providing alternative livelihood to such tribes due to shrinking forest areas; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for their upliftment?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM)); (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes/programmes for the socio-economic development of tribals in all the States/UTs, including Karnataka. These Schemes/ programmes are meant for the welfare of all the tribals, including those living in forests. There is no separate scheme specifically for the tribals living in forests or those affected due to shrinking forest areas.

The Schemes of the Ministry relate to income and employment generation, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement in literacy of all the tribals. Some Schemes pertain to ensuring fair prices for minor forest produce and food security for the tribals, besides the promotion of voluntary efforts in the area of tribal welfare. The list of Schemes/programmes o'f Ministry of Tribal Affairs, being imple-

mented in Karnataka is annexed as Statement. *(See* below) The funds are released to the department in charge of tribal welfare, who are required to ensure that these reach the beneficiaries.

Statement

Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes

1. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan.
2. Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.
3. Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes.
4. Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes.
5. Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas.
6. Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs.
7. Research & Training.
8. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce.
9. Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas.
10. Vocational training in Tribal Areas.
11. Village Grain Bank Scheme.
12. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups.
13. Post Matric Scholarship for ST Students.
14. National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for STs.
15. Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs.
16. Upgradation of Merit ST Students.
17. Book Bank Scheme for ST Students.
18. State Tribal Development Finance Corporation.
19. Exchange of Visits by Tribals.

DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Sir, I was quite happy with the reply given by the Minister. He has provided all the details that I was looking for.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

HIV Epidemics

*523. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports that serious localized HIV epidemics in different parts of the country are affecting millions of people; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The National AIDS Control Organization, Government of India, conducts Nation wide HIV sentinel surveillance every year during the period August-October, covering both high-risk groups as well as general population. This data is used for both, to monitor the trends of HIV infection in different risk groups and to estimate the burden of HIV infections in the country in the adult population. The last HIV sentinel surveillance round conducted in year 2002 included 384 Sentinel sites located in differet parts of the country. These sites include 166 sites in Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) clinics, 13 sites for Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs), 3 sites for Men having Sex with Men (MSM), 2 sites for Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) and 200 sites located in antenatal clinics representing general population. Based on the consistent high prevalence in high-risk groups as well as among pregnant women attending antenatal clinics, 49 districts have been identified as high prevalence districts. This indicates that there is no uniform spread of HIV infection, and localized high prevalence is occurring in different parts of the country. The estimated number of HIV infections in the country is about 4 million.

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components: